(b) if so, the capacity of Chiria Mines in respect of current iron ore reserves, mineable and probable; and

(c) what is the quality of Fe content, in terms of percentage, in Chiria Mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) As per available information the total economically mineable iron ore reserves in the Chiria mines in Jharkhand are estimated at 1974.45 million tonnes as on 1.4.2005, and the Fe content assessed in the various mining leases of M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. in Chiria varied between 61.70% to 65.90%.

Illegal mining activities

236. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal mining at the mountains and hills in the country is at the peak these days;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such mining is rapidly increasing at Aravali, Shivalik, Himalayas, Vindhyachal, Satpura, Deccan Plateau and the Nilgiri mountains;

(c) if so, the details of the loss suffered by the inhabitants of these areas, including the cultivable land and forest areas destroyed; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of the mountains and the inhabitants of the areas, and also the bonded labour working at the mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Instances of illegal mining have come to the notice of the Central Government from time to time. The State Governments have been delegated power to frame Rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation etc. under Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. Central Government has asked State Governments to frame Rules under Section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957 and constitute task force at State and District Levels having a nominee from Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines. Central Government also monitors the instances of illegal mining, action taken by the State Government against such activities to curb illegal mining with the Secretaries of State Governments from time to time. State Governments have been asked to furnish quarterly returns in the prescribed proforma on instances of illegal mining and action taken to Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of this Ministry. IBM has also been asked to undertake spot inspection of the area and furnish action taken report/comments to this Ministry.

Illegal mining in Haryana

237. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale illegal mining in the protected Aravali Hills in Haryana is taking place and the Supreme Court had banned any anti-forest activities in the region;

(b) if so, whether the Action Plan already submitted to the Supreme Court is being strictly adhered to;

(c) whether any complicity of officials, with forest mafia has been detected; and

(d) if so, whether any other steps like digging of trenches on the newly built roads in the forest area, to stop mafia from further intrusion, have been initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) As per available information, the Supreme Court of India *vide* its interim order dated 6.5.2002 has banned mining activities within a distance of 5 kms. of Delhi-Haryana boundary in Faridabad and Gurgaon districts of Haryana. Supreme Court has banned mining activities in Aravalli Hills *vide* its Judgement dated 16.12.2002. State Government of Haryana has informed that a strict vigil is being kept on the areas falling under Aravalli hills to stop illegal mining. Task Force at State level and District level have also been constituted for prevention of illegal mining in the State. The State Government of Haryana has framed "Haryana Minerals (Prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage) Rules, 2006" under Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Action, 1957. As informed by the State Government of Haryana, the special Action Plan, prepared for district Gurgaon and submitted by the State Government before the Supreme Court, is being adhered to by the State Government and no organized illegal mining is taking place. Central Government also monitor the instances of illegal mining, action taken by the State Government to curb illegal mining with the Secretaries of State Governments in the review meeting held for the purpose. State Governments have been asked to furnish quarterly returns in the prescribed proforma on instances of illegal mining to Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of this Ministry, which are reviewed by the Central Government. IBM has also been asked to undertake spot inspection of the area and furnish action taken report/comments to this Ministry.

Implementation of National Mineral Policy

238. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the key amendments proposed to relevant Acts and Rules, to implement the New National Mineral Policy;

(b) at what stage of approval these amendments are; and

(c) whether key mineral-rich States have been consulted; if so, do they concur with the proposed amendments?